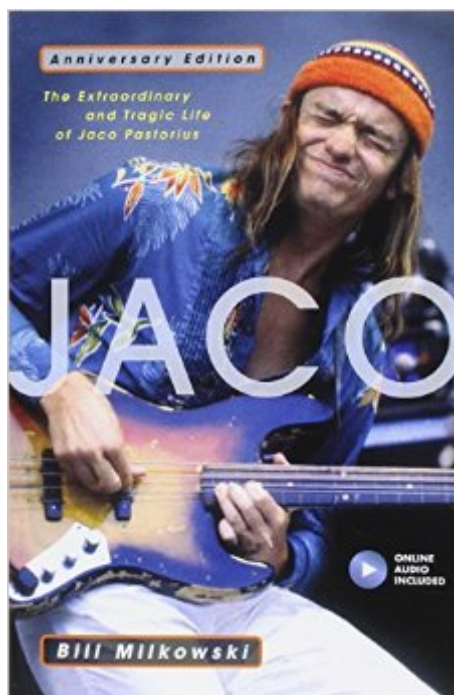


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Jaco: The Extraordinary And Tragic Life Of Jaco Pastorius



Synopsis

(Book). A fitting tribute to the troubled genius who revolutionized electric bass playing and bridged the gaps between jazz, R&B, rock and funk. From his early days in R&B club bands through his international stardom with fusion group Weather Report and on to his solo career and tragic death at age 35, this book portrays the life and music of Jaco Pastorius, the self-proclaimed "world's greatest bass player." This special anniversary edition features new interviews with Jaco's childhood friends, prominent bass players of Jaco's era and afterward, and girlfriend Teresa Nagell, who was with Jaco in the last few years of his life. Some incidents from the first edition have been further researched and expanded to become full chapters. Exclusive to this edition, the online audio features newly revealed music tracks from Jaco's early years along with spoken testimonials from Jaco's friends and colleagues. The book also contains new, never-before-seen photos acquired from the Pastorius estate.

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Customer Reviews

I read the first edition of this book when it first came out 10 years ago, and I was disappointed with the heavy emphasis on Jaco's darker, later years. I was excited to pick up this "10th anniversary edition" with "the new insights of the early years" and the "new revelations about his tragic final days..." There is more early years coverage, thanks in large part to Bob Bobbing, Jaco's friend and audio-biographer (the CD included with the book is from the Jaco, the Early Years box set).

However, I found this book to be full of typos, passages that appear unedited, repetitive and rambling. The "new revelations" about his final days were very confusing. Milkowski seems to want

to cast doubt over what was regarded as the incident between Jaco and Luc Havan, though it bounces around between Havan actually killing him, to other vague passages that cause more confusion than provide any insight. This is a sad book, but it has to be, unfortunately. Reading it this time gave me the same feeling as last. I wish someone could have broken through to help him, as impossible as it was to do that.

I remember Jaco Pastorius through several great concerts with Weather Report and a sizzling show with Word of Mouth at the Cleveland Agora. For those who had the chance to appreciate his music live or for so many that are grooving to Jaco many years after his death, the updated biography - with a CD that includes additional material - by Bill Milkowski is the best way to piece together the complicated rise and fall of the brilliant musician. Milkowski has exhaustive interviews with musicians, family members, media, friends and lovers that are split in chapters to coincide with his years as a musician with a dream, the height of musical achievement and then leaving Weather Report, and the controversial years after leaving the group that found Jaco spiralling out of control personally and musically. That Jaco was a musical genius cannot be denied. The book will leave you wondering why Jaco - as with too many artists - took his gift and tossed it into the abyss of "what could have been."

First, I'd like to mention that I grew up here in Oakland Park, FL and became close friends with Jaco well-before his years of fame. It was an incredibly wonderful friendship that began in our early teens and lasting until the very day he died after his admission to the hospital (where I was working as a Laboratory Technician). Most fans paint Jaco absurdly far more than he was ... worshiping him as a God, a deity, or whatever their obsessive little minds could concoct. He was NONE of that bulls***. Certainly, he was a true genius and master of his craft ... but moreover he was a fun, greatly-humored, wildly adventurous and warm human being ... a genuine close friend. Strange to say, but in all of those years, I never once really thought of him as a successful musician ... simply my friend. This was a very wonderfully constructed account of Jaco, but (as with most Bios) falls completely flat regarding any early personal insights as to who he was or how he developed socially prior to his fame and notoriety. I was there along many steps of the way, so I need absolutely no such knowledge, but perhaps his true interested fans would be missing out all-together. It seems, however that fans of most anything today seem only interested in the struggles, tragedies, downfalls, shortcomings and shock value aspects of stories. He surely fought his demons, and his fame became his undoing ... but there was far more to Jaco which made him the wonderful human

being he was and how truly deserved to be remembered. Again, a wonderful book, but look no earlier for much before the fame.

This is a great read. Very entertaining. The fact that Milkowski was friends with Jaco really adds some credibility to the story. I'm only half way through right now but I like the way the story is told. Lots of good quotes from musicians that played with Jaco. Also there's some good information that, as a bass player myself, I can put to use. Books that inspired Jaco and where he gained valuable information. Definitely worth the price of admission

Definitely a 4-star book presenting the chronology of the career and life of one of the most important musicians, composers, and band leaders of our time. Jaco Pastorius was a genius and a phenomenon. Milkowski deftly separates the legend from the man, keeping the music at the forefront, while presenting hard evidence that our current protocols for approaching mental illness are tragically inadequate. If Jaco couldn't be helped, is there hope for the rest of us? The reader finishes this book with greater insight and appreciation for Jaco Pastorius' innovation and body of work as well as a profound respect for the men and women who dedicate their lives to their craft. Who loves ya, Jaco! Three stars because my Kindle edition was chock full of typos and missing pictures.

Its actually an excellent book. I loved reading about Jaco and his exploits and magic and then tragic life and subsequent death. The book needs an editor. There are grammar and spelling errors throughout that can be annoying though sometimes comical. I didn't get the book for its comedic value. Perhaps the Editor was going through a rough phase of his own. I probably would have gone with 4 stars if it weren't for that. Know that a good chunk (maybe 15% of the pages at the end) are remembrances from musicians and others that knew him and discography etc.

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